RG104 E-1 Box 141 Jul-Sep 1886

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 30th Septemb. 1886.

Sir,

Having studied out plans and arrangements for melting the several series of base coin for the Treasury Dep^t, now called for, I respectfully offer to put these plans in practice.

Beside the six furnaces, absolutely necessary for the Gold and Silver Coinage, and one furnace for melting the alloy for the same, which must be reserved exclusively for such purpose, I have two other furnaces now ready for melting the baser coinage. For this purpose we should have a force of at least seven men, 2 melters, 4 helpers to open and shut moulds, &c. and one for extra work, which is always needed.

Our capacity is about as follows: about 125 lbs pr. melt in each furnace, or 250 in the two furnaces, and five melts pr regular day's

work, should accomplish 1250 lbs. pr. day. But the amount of coin cut out of the ingots is usually about half, 625 lbs. coin and 625 clippings. We can execute this amount with nickel alloy, and a little more (perhaps 10 @ 20 %) with bronze.

I would propose melting first a large proportion of the old 5 & 3-ct. metal, in order to supply what seems to be the most urgent demand, viz. the 5 ct. coin. Then the Bronze should follow, and after that the 5-ct. metal made up from the old Nickel cent. We shall melt the old Copper cents at convenient times, simply to be rid of them.

I am now ready to melt the base coin, as soon as the men are supplied.

Very respectfully

J. A. H. Booth

Assay & Refiner.

Hon: D. M. Fox

Supt U. S. Mint

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 141

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